

Boycott/Latino group remains opposed to Amendment 2

From B1

and local media to spread information on its opposition to the boycott.

The Latino group is no stranger to the power of economic pressure. It has a long history of promoting boycotts against businesses that it contends have racist policies toward Hispanics, including the decade-long stand against Coors Brewing Co.

"The difference is that we contact other civil rights groups that may be involved or affected by those boycotts," Velez said.

The group is the latest to say no to the boycott. A grass-roots group called B.A.C.K.O.F.F. Colorado Committee (Boycotters Against Colorado Keep Out of Our Affairs) has formed to boycott the boycotters. And a new statewide coalition of civic, religious and business leaders in

metro Denver formed this week and will distance itself from the boycott while still attacking the amendment.

Boycott Colorado, a group whose sole aim is to promote economic punishment to this state, couldn't be reached Friday for comment.

In other Amendment 2 news:

■ Will Perkins of Colorado for Family Values, who supports the amendment, and opponent Rob

Gordon of Ground Zero debated the issue on KGFT, 100.7 FM, a Christian radio station in Colorado Springs. Perkins continued to argue that the measure does not discriminate against homosexuals, while Gordon claimed Amendment 2 "opens the door" for discrimination.

■ The boards of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the Colorado Bar Association may decide today

whether to drop or cancel conventions. The Hispanic media group is meeting in Miami over the weekend. It has plans to have its annual convention in March in Denver, but may pull out of the state. The bar association is considering whether to yank its Oct. 6-10 gathering out of Colorado Springs for an area in the state where the amendment is opposed by local government leaders, such as Denver,

Boulder or Aspen.

■ A California state assemblyman, Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles, has called for a state-sponsored boycott of Colorado.

"Discrimination against any individual violates basic protection guaranteed to every citizen in this country," the lawmaker said.

■ Actress Lily Tomlin became the latest celebrity to endorse the boycott.

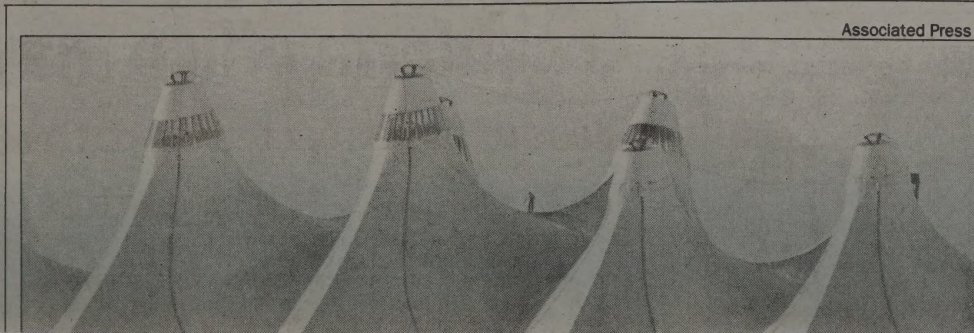
STATE

Groff plans four bills on gun control

Lawmaker's past
efforts defeated

Associated Press

DENVER — State Sen. Regis
Groff, fulfilling a promise he



Associated Press

Man pleads guilty to sex assault against his wife

Associated Press

FORT COLLINS — A 40-year-old man has pleaded guilty to attempted sexual assault against his wife in a case legal experts described as rare because the two were living together at the time of the assault.

Randy DeLay of Fort Collins

the sex was nonconsensual and she had physically resisted her husband's advances.

"He told me I was going to give him what he wanted whether I wanted to or not," she told authorities.

As part of the plea agreement,

BACK OFF launched to fight boycott

Group dislikes 'abuse' of state

By **Louis Aguilar**/Gazette Telegraph

A Colorado Springs man is launching a group that will boycott those who are boycotting the state over controversial Amendment 2.

BACK OFF Colorado Committee (Boycotters Against Colorado Keep Out of Our Affairs), has been formed by Springs resident Joseph Nee. Nee said the group will target cities, groups and celebrities who endorsed the boycott of Colorado over voters' passage of Amendment 2.

The amendment bars state and local governments from passing laws that protect gays, lesbians and bisexuals from discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

Nee said about 50 people have contacted him to offer support since he first publicized his plan; supporters will hold a public meeting at 8:30 p.m. Thursday in Colorado Springs at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 7290 Commerce Center Drive.

Nee, a father of five, said the group has no affiliation with the author of the amendment, Colorado for Family Values, a group headed by Springs car dealer Will Perkins.

"We are just average Coloradans who don't like the way our votes are being threatened, or the way this state is getting abused," Nee said.

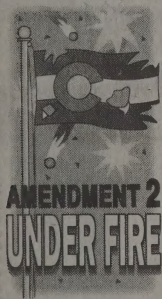
Eight cities across the country, including New York and Los Angeles, have called for a boycott of Colorado, and some have passed laws prohibiting public funds to be spent here. Also, dozens of groups and businesses have canceled plans to meet in the state, actions that have cost the Colorado economy an estimated \$10 million.

BACK OFF is the second grass-roots group formed to defend the state initiatives approved by a majority of voters during the Nov. 3 election.

The other is **We the People**, founded by Monument resident and auto shop owner Douglas Briggman. The group wants to collect 278,000 signatures to force a recall vote on Gov. Roy Romer. The group is unhappy with Romer's stance on Amendment 1, the tax-limitation measure also approved in November, and Amendment 2.

In other Amendment 2 news:

- The Union of American Hebrew Congregations in New York has said it will endorse the boycott of Colorado.
- The National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association has decided not to attend the annual conference of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists in Denver because of the amendment. The group of Hispanic journalists already has decided to keep its meeting in the state.



officials said they expect no more than 50 cases, a Denver doctor said he believes there will be at least 100 cases.

"This is a substantial outbreak. We should call it an epidemic in order to raise public awareness," said Dr. Steven Mostow, chairman of medicine at Rose Medical Center in Denver.

Since warnings of the outbreak were reported last week, about 80 people have gone to the El Paso County Health Department for gamma globulin shots, Muth said. If administered within 14 days of exposure, the shots usually will ward off the liver disease.

Those exposed at Christmas-time could be protected if they get shots this week. Although calls to Colorado Springs health officials have tapered off, Muth said he expects more people to come in for shots. The Health

the establishments. Both Le Petit Gourmet and Sweet Soiree were shut down after the outbreak occurred last week.

Efforts are now focusing on stopping the outbreak.

Denver-area food establishments were ordered Friday to have food handlers use gloves or utensils when handling raw fruit and vegetables or already prepared foods. The order, which is in effect through Feb. 2, affects about 7,000 restaurants, grocery stores and convenience stores in the six-county Denver area.

The Denver Health Department issued an order effective through Jan. 31 forbidding restaurants to hire employees who handled food for Le Petit or Sweet Soiree between mid-November and Christmas.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Shop teacher charged with slaying of wife

Gazette Telegraph

Robert Joseph Brantner, 43, was charged Monday with second-degree murder in the Dec. 14 death of his wife.

Brantner, a Sierra High School shop teacher, faces 16 to 48 years in prison if he is convicted of the charge.

A preliminary hearing is set Jan. 21 before 4th Judicial District Judge Gil Martinez.

The body of nurse Cheryl Ann Brantner, 42, was found face down in the tub with the shower running in the master bedroom of the family home in the 5600 block of Red Onion Way.

The mother of three children died from a massive blood clot on the brain caused by repeatedly being struck by a hard object that police have yet to identify.

won many concessions

tential additional fines were "given away" because the Justice Department surrendered too soon.

■ Justice officials and Norton decided very early in the case — even before all the evidence had been collected or analyzed — that individuals would not be pursued.

■ There apparently was plenty of evidence to indict DOE and Rockwell officials.

■ Under the terms of the plea bargain, taxpayers could foot the tab for \$7.9 million of Rockwell's legal costs.

■ Rockwell prevailed on

virtually every key issue: It succeeded in blocking the indictment of any officials; it obtained an agreement that precludes further pursuit of other known violations; and it avoided being barred from future government contracts.

■ As part of the plea bargain, prosecutors agreed to make statements that misled the public.

■ An Energy Department official's attempt to intervene on Rockwell's behalf showed "protecting the interests of Rockwell" was a primary department concern.